of Parliament in this connection, if so, what remedial steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The only new forest law is the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is not true that it places total restriction on use of forest land for even government Projects. It actually provides for prior approval of the Central Government in every case, involving diversion of forest land to non-forest purpose or dereservation of any reserved forest. The main objective of the Act is to check indiscriminate use of forest land for non-forest land for non-forest purposes. To ensure that the provisions of the Act do not hold up the execution of development projects, detailed guidelines have been laid down and the procedure for submission of proposals to the Central Government has been simplified. Besides, proposals for release of forest lands are considered on priority by the Central Government.

(b) Letters from some Members of Parliament have been received, which have been attended to promptly. Detailed guidelines have been laid down to expedite disposal of cases arising under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the State Governments have been advised to gear up the machinery for this purpose, as well as to monitor the progress regularly.

Western centre of the National Institute of Sports

1876. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have been requested by the Gujarat Government to establish a Western Centre of the National Institute of Sports, Patiala at Gandhinagar; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No decision is likely till finalization of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Probe into the Affairs of Vishva Bharti

1877. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the reasons for which the Vishva Bharti was recently forced to close down *sine die;*

(b) what is the reason for changing the present admission policy; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct an all party Parliamentary probe into the affairs of Vishva Bharti if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) The criteria for admission to various courses in Visva Bharati during 1984-85 were finalised and notified in April, 1984. According to these criteria, admission to several Bhavanas were to be made on the basis of an entrance test open to candidates from all over the country. A section of students insisted that all the internal candidates should be assured of admission. In order to press this demand, the students resorted to agitation and gherao. They compelled the University to cancel the entrance test for admission to Kala Bhavana which was scheduled for July 9, 1984. Following these incidents, it was decided to close the University till 25th September, 1984. It was, however, made clear that the University could be reopened earlier if the agitation was withdrawn. On an assurance given by the University that meritorious students of Kala Bhavana would get due consideration in the matter of admission to Kala Bhavana, the students called off the agitation on July 14, 1984.

(c) No, Sir.